

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

Winter 2016**HERITAGE FUN AUCTION 2016 - ERRORS GALORE**

By

Rick Melamed

The January 2016 FUN show brought to market a dizzying array of fractional inverted reverses and inverted surcharges. Overall nearly 200 lots of fractionals were up for grabs. In what was described as "*From The Most Comprehensive Collection of Fractional Currency Inverts Ever Formed*" we have been presented with a rare opportunity to see a plethora of errors surpassing the John Ford, Milt Friedberg and Tom O'Mara collections in sheer volume. The consignor wishes to be anonymous but we must tip our hat to he/she for assembling such an impressive collection. It's a real pleasure that the theme of the Heritage FUN Auction is about interesting fractionals and not '67' graded notes.

Error pricing held its own compared to the most recent large auctions of error fractionals from 2005 (O'Mara) and 2007 (Ford). Overall auction prices for all fractionals generally are a little soft. Perhaps it's a sign of recent economic times as the stock market took a pounding to start off 2016.

I will try to pick out some highlights, but there are so many that we are leaving some beauties out. To that end and with the encouragement from Benny Bolin, former SPMC and FCCB President and current SPMC Paper Money magazine editor, I am working on a comparison of inverted errors (from Friedberg, Ford, O'Mara and FUN2016) for publication in a future edition of the FCCB newsletter. Considering the amount of varieties: inverted reverse surcharge, inverted back surcharge, inverted reverses, inverted back/inverted back surcharges, inverted front and back surcharges, etc. the amount of research is daunting. So without further digressions, here are some of the highlights from the auction:

- Lot 18270 - Fr.1230 (Milton 1R5.4g) 5¢ First Issue Block of Twelve Inverted Backs in PCGS30. The wonderful block of 12 error notes sold for \$2,115 (includes auction fees). This note was purchased from the 2005 O'Mara sale for \$1,955.
- Lot 18280 - Fr.1280 25¢ First Issue PMG66EPQ Vertical Strip of Four. Sold for \$4,112.50. This gorgeous non-monogram perforated quartet is stunning. It was previously part of the Frederick Mayer Auction and sold for \$4,600 in 2007. Before that it was part of the Marchioni collection which CAA sold for \$7,700 at FUN 2000.
- Lot 18256 - Fr.1310 (Milton 1R50.3b 50¢) First Issue Inverted Back PCGS64PPQ. Sold for \$2,115. Only 1 of 2 known. Any perforated error is desirable. This one previously sold in 2007 for \$1,955.
- Lot 18291 - Fr.1233 (Milton 2R5.2f) 5¢ Second Issue Inverted Back Surcharges PCGS58PPQ. Sold for \$528.75. This was another error from the O'Mara collection where it previously resold in 2007 for \$460.

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(continued)



Lot 18291 - Fr. 1233 (Milton 2R5.2f)

- Lot 18295 – Fr.1244 (Milton 2R10.1b) 10¢ Second Issue Inverted Back Engraving and Surcharges PCGS50. Sold for \$1,700. This example has both the surcharges and the reverse design inverted. Thought to be unique, this same note previously sold in 2007 for \$1,380.
- Lot 18298 – Fr.1245 (Milton 2R10.2i) 10¢ Second Issue Inverted Back Engraving PCGS63. Sold for \$2,115. This note was missing from Ford and O'Mara but an AU example was sold at Milt Friedberg's 1997 sale for \$1,150.
- Lot 18302 – Fr.1249 (Milton 2R10.7a) 10¢ Second Issue Inverted Surcharges PCGS64PPQ. Sold for \$2,232.50. This fiber invert is delicious eye candy with sharp bronzing; the winner of this lot should consider themselves very lucky to own it. The only other known example (Choice XF) was sold in the 2005 O'Mara sale for \$1,725. One has to think it came from the same sheet.



Lot 18302 - Fr. 1249 (Milton 2R10.7a)

- Lot 18311 – Fr.1317 (Milton 2R50.3e) 50¢ Second Issue Inverted Surcharges PCGS64PPQ. Sold for \$1,762.50. This exact note sold in 1997 for \$1,540 (Friedberg) and again for \$2,300 in 2005 (O'Mara).

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(continued)



Lot 18311 - Fr. 1317 (Milton 2R50.3e)

- Lot 18317 – Fr.1227 (Milton 3R3.2e) 3¢ Third Issue Inverted Back PMG35. Sold for \$1,410. A rare variety and only 1 or 2 known. The other being a Fine graded note from the 2005 O'Mara sale which sold for \$1,150.
- There were (10) separate lots of Grant Sherman's, many as pairs, from \$705 to \$1,057.50. Pricing of Grant Sherman's have certainly suffered of late as the market has been saturated. There was one narrow margin Fr.1273 which sold for \$2,115. The aforementioned Colby/ Spinner autographed example is only found on the rare pink and green shields. Again a relatively low price for this Friedberg number; the last example sold at FUN in 2013 for \$4,112.
- Lot 18344 – Fr.1291 (Milton 3R25.1h) 25¢ Third Issue Inverted Surcharge PCGS64PPQ. Hammered for \$2,820. A rare and lovely example and only 1 of 2 known...note plate #2 in the bottom left. Last sold in Friedberg's auction for \$2,530. The other known example, which was graded Choice XF, sold for \$1,955 in 2005.

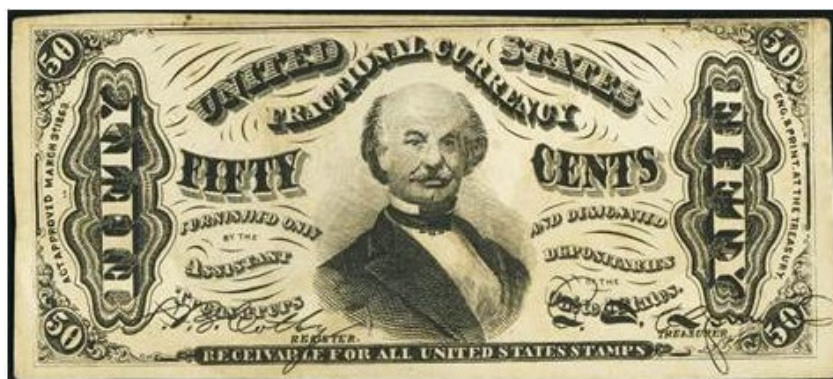


Lot 18344 - Fr. 1291 (Milton 3R25.1h)

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- An incredible run of (6) green back Fessenden's all with inverted surcharges and/or backs sold for: **Fr.1294** (Inv S/C) in PCGS55 - \$705; **Fr.1295** (Inv S/C) in PCGS58 (Inv S/C) for \$2,115; **Fr.1295**(Inv Back) in PCGS30 for \$1,410; **Fr.1297** (Inv S/C) in PCGS30 for \$1,410; **Fr.1298** in PCGS62 (Inv Back) for \$1,175; **Fr.1299** (Inv S/C) in PCGS35 (chip in the margin) for \$1,880.
- Lot 18354 – Fr.1330 50¢ Third Issue Spinner PMG58. Sold for \$3,055. This is the very rare Allison-New autographed note. Most examples to hit the auction block have been graded as Gem. Choice AU examples generally sell for half that amount.
- A wonderful set of (9) green back Spinners with inverted surcharges and/or inverted reverses. **Fr.1331** (Inv S/C) in PCGS50 - \$528.75; **Fr.1333** (Inv Back) in PCGS62 - \$1,057.50; **Fr.1333** (Inv S/C & Back) in PCGS53PPQ - \$1,057.50; **Fr.1335** (Inv S/C) in PCGS63 - \$1,762.50; **Fr.1337** (Inv S/C) in PCGS30 - \$1,450; **Fr.1338** (Inv S/C) in PCGS40 - \$1,410; **Fr.1339** (Inv S/C) in PCGS35 - \$705; **Fr.1339** (Inv S/C & Back) in PCGS30 - \$1,410; **Fr.1341** (Inv S/C) in PCGS30 - \$822.50.
- Lot 18372 - Counterfeit Plate Proof from Unidentified Detector PCGS62. Sold for \$705. This is not from a Heath Counterfeit Detector book, but rather from an unknown source. This is evidenced by the plate position '1' indicator on the card. Heath plates never used the plate position indicator - making this quite unusual and explains the strong price. To give it some context, an entire Heath Book generally sells in the \$300 to \$500 range; this single example sold for considerably more.



Lot 18372 - Counterfeit Plate Proof from Unidentified Detector

(Note: If anyone in the FCCB can shed more light on the origin of this Counterfeit Plate Proof, please write to our editor Jerry Fochtman or myself riconio@yahoo.com. We would gladly publish any new relevant information in a later edition of the newsletter.)

- Lot 18373 – Fr.1351 (Milton 3R50.8) 50¢ Third Issue Justice PCGS55. Sold for \$11,162.50. The FR1351-54 red back series of Justice notes with the printed signatures and 'S-2-6-4' surcharge are rare and quite desirable. A bargain price; the last two Choice CU examples went for \$23,500 and \$29,900.
- Lot 18374 – Fr.1357 (Milton 3R50.6a) 50¢ Third Issue Justice Inverted Back Engraving PCGS64PPQ. Sold for \$2,350. A common error note in uncommon condition.

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(continued)



Lot 18374 - Fr. 1357 (Milton 3R50.6a)

- Our mystery collector consigned an incredible (9) different green back Justice notes with inverted surcharges and/or inverted reverses: **Fr.1362** (Inv S/C) in PCGS63 - \$1,057.50; **Fr.1364** (Inv S/C) in PCGS58 - \$1,175; **Fr.1366** (Inv S/C) in PCGS55 - \$1,410; **Fr.1365** (Inv S/C) in PCGS20 - \$763.75; **Fr.1370** (Inv Back) in PCGS55 - \$763.75; **Fr.1370** (Inv S/C) in PCGS35 - \$881.25; **Fr.1373** (Inv Back) in PCGS53PPQ - \$793.13, **Fr.1373** (Inv Back & S/C) in PCGS40 - \$1,057.50; **Fr.1373** (Inv S/C) in PCGS30 - \$1,057.50.
- (1) Pink and (3) Gray Shields sold for \$7,367.50 (pink) and \$5,460, \$7,050, \$3,525.
- Lot 18390 – Fr.1267 15¢ Fourth Issue PCGS Superb Gem New 67PPQ. Sold for \$2,585. A strong price, just short of a record price of \$2,820 in 2014.
- Lot 23264 – Fr.1339SP 50¢ Third Issue Spinner Type II Narrow Margin Back PMG64. This sold for \$2,467.50. Type 2 Specimen reverses are very rare with about a dozen known.

Once again a great deal of thanks must be extended to Heritage. The scans from this article were made available through their Auction Archives. Their FUN sales continue to be the auction of the year as it relates to fractionals. Every year seems to bring new delights and surprises. 2016 turned out to be the best in several years with their presentation of this incredible array of error notes.



JAMES POLIS IS BUYING AND SELLING **FRACTIONAL CURRENCY**

I am one of the strongest buyers in this field. Take a look at any major auction or show at who is buying fractionals in all grades and you will usually hear my name or see my face. Please send me your notes for a fair and expedient offer.

I am passionately looking for all scarcer varieties as well as Choice-Gem
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First Issue Perforated Notes

Gem Second Issue Notes with clear surcharges

Attractive and broadly margined Spinner notes

All Justice varieties

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ALL GRANT – SHERMAN SPECIMENS

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CONSERVATIVE GRADING

I am one of the most conservative graders in the hobby (ask anyone who has *ever* dealt with me).

AUCTION REPRESENTATION

Very competitive rates offered – I am at every major paper money auction

MAJOR ADVERTISER

Check out my full-page ad on *page 17* in every issue of the Bank Note Reporter.

WANT LISTS SERVICED

I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

Marchioni Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

Gengerke Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

O'Mara Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

O'Mara Fr. 1371 Choice AU

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UNIQUE JAMES C. NAPIER AUTOGRAPHED GRANT-SHERMAN NOTE

By

Rick Melamed

The response from last issue's article on missing signatures on fractionals was very well received. One email from fellow FCCB member Bill George is quite intriguing. In 2009, Bill purchased a Grant-Sherman Specimen from Stack's Americana sale that is unique and worthy of further exploration. With closer examination, this note contains a "missing signature" and should be considered an error note...but with a fascinating twist (more on that below).

REGULAR AUTOGRAPHED GRANT-SHERMAN NOTES

On autographed Grant-Sherman's¹, in the Register position on the bottom left side of the note, there are signatures of either: Stoddard B. Colby (Fr.1273-SP); N.L. Jeffries (Fr.1274-SP); or John Allison (Fr.1275-SP). Francis E. Colby's autograph is always found in the Treasurer's position on the bottom right.



FR1273-SP Colby-Spinner



FR1274-SP Jeffries-Spinner

¹ Fr.1272-SP Grant-Sherman's contained printed signatures of Colby and Spinner



FR1275-SP Allison-Spinner

AUTOGRAPHED NAPIER-SPINNER GRANT-SHERMAN NOTE

Shown below is a unique note that was autographed by James C. Napier, who was Register of the US Treasury from 1911-1913. Napier, who was a very early and influential African-American, was born in 1845 and died in 1940 (see below for Napier's biography). Since Grant-Sherman's were produced in 1867 (well before Napier's tenure at the Treasury) it seems apparent that Napier signed the single autographed note during his tenure as Register...a full 44-46 years after the Grant-Sherman's were produced. Auction records state that the Napier/Colby note was obtained directly from the Treasury. Logic dictates when the note was obtained; Napier signed the example with a courtesy autograph; decades after the note was produced. Thereby making this Grant-Sherman note a single signature example with a courtesy autograph.



Milt 3PF15.6 Napier-Spinner

Stack's auction description is as follows:

Third Issue. 15¢. Fr.1273-1275-SP Type. Grant & Sherman. Specimen Face. Wide margins. Autographed signatures of Napier and Spinner. Choice Uncirculated. A fascinating signature combination, listed in the Milton Encyclopedia as 3PF15.6. Milton calls this **Unique** and this status seems likely. Napier has signed in the Register's position. However, this accurately should be classified as a single signature Spinner face (which in itself would be a great item) with this courtesy autograph in the Register's position. Napier served from 1911 to 1913. This is another Fractional Currency specialty note that was obtained through direct connections with the Treasury. There are some light handling traces along the top, but discussion of the condition is academic for a unique item. Obviously of **extreme importance** for the specialist in Grant & Sherman Specimens and a superb courtesy autograph piece. A significant pedigree coming from the electrically charged atmosphere that was the second night of Ford III back in May 2004, a

*night which ushered in new interest and influenced some to sell and others to keep buying. (sold for \$5,750)
From a Private Collection; our sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part III, May 11-12, 2004, Lot 1045.*

As the Register of the US Treasury, Napier's printed signature shows up on quite a few varieties of large sized currency. But since fractionals predate his tenure as Register, his signature rarely show up. From Ford's 2007 sale (Stack's XIX Catalog) there was a run of (8) Fr.1226 fractionals and a set of (3) Fr.1226/1227 Specimen notes. Shown below are 2 examples with his autograph.



FR1226 with Napier Autograph



FR1227-WM- SP with Napier Autograph

James C. Napier Biography

(Courtesy of The Tennessee Historical Society)



James C. Napier in 1938,
President of Citizen's Bank

African American businessman and leader James C. Napier was born to free parents on June 9, 1845, in Nashville. His father, William Carroll, was a free hack driver and a sometime overseer. James attended the free blacks' school on Line and High Street (now Sixth Avenue) with some sixty other black children until white vigilantes forced the school to close in 1856. He later attended school in Ohio after a December 1856 race riot ended black education in Nashville until the Union occupation in February 1862.

Upon returning to the Union-held city of Nashville, Napier became involved in Republican Party politics. John Mercer Langston, an Ohio free black who became a powerful Republican politician and congressman, was a friend of Napier's father. On December 30, 1864, Langston visited Nashville to speak to ten thousand black Union troops who had taken part in the recent and victorious battle of Nashville and to address the second Emancipation Day Celebration. He later invited Napier to attend the newly opened law school at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he was a founding dean. After receiving his law degree in 1872, Napier returned to practice in Nashville. In 1873 he married Dean Langston's youngest daughter, Nettie. This wedding was the biggest social event in nineteenth-century black Washington.

Between 1872 and 1913 Napier became Nashville's most powerful and influential African American citizen. Between 1878 and 1886 he served on the Nashville City Council and was the first black to preside over the council. He was instrumental in the hiring of black teachers for the "colored" public schools during the 1870s, the hiring of black "detectives," and the organization of the black fire-engine company during the 1880s. His greatest political accomplishment was his service as President William H. Taft's Register of the United States Treasury from 1911 to 1913.

Napier also was a successful businessman and a personal friend of Booker T. Washington, whose wife Margaret was a personal friend of Nettie Langston Napier and often spent two or more weeks each summer at the Napier's Nolensville Road summer home. Washington visited the city several times a year until his death in 1915. Napier was elected president of the National Negro Business League, which Washington had founded. The league held several of its annual meetings in Nashville, and Napier organized a local chapter of the league in 1905. He was a founder and cashier (manager) of the One Cent (now Citizens) Savings Bank organized in 1904, and he gave the new bank temporary quarters rent-free in his Napier Court office building at 411 North Cherry Street (now Fourth Avenue). He helped organize the 1905 Negro streetcar strike and the black Union Transportation Company's streetcar lines. He presided over the powerful Nashville Negro Board of Trade and was on the boards of Fisk and Howard universities. Upon his death on April 21, 1940, Napier was interred in Greenwood Cemetery near members of his family and members of the Langston family.

With all the treasures from the John Ford collection, there were many stories that need to be told and explored in greater detail. The Napier/Spinner note further adds to the wonderful database of fractional lore.

I want to thank the Stack's Archives for the auction information and scan, Heritage Auction Archives for the scan of Fr.1226, Bill George for sharing this note with the club and The Tennessee Historical Society for their biography information on James Napier.



Member's Trading Post

<p>Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.</p> <p>Jerry Fochtman jerry@fochtman.us</p>	<p>Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326.</p> <p>Thanks – Rick Melamed.</p>	<p>Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience</p> <p>Mike Marchioni Marchion@ETSU.EDU 423/439-5362</p>
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Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

Have You Seen/Do You Know Where It Is?

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

Pink Fractional Currency Shield: somewhat worn and foxed as all are. With original frame\$2,750.00

Fractional Currency book with proof Fractionals, narrow margins, pasted in. 28 crisp notes consisting of obverse and reverse of the following notes: Fr. 1231, 1243, 1282, 1313, 1227, 1238, 1232, 1244, 1251, 1283, 1314, 1291, 1355 and 1228. Book size 8 x 10 1/2", from the Spinner Estate\$675.00

Original bundle of Fr. 1379 with wrapper ..\$600.00

Uncut sheet of Fr. 1242 with full margins ..\$650.00

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

WM. ANTON, JR., Pres.

P. O. Box 135 Lodi, N. J. 07644

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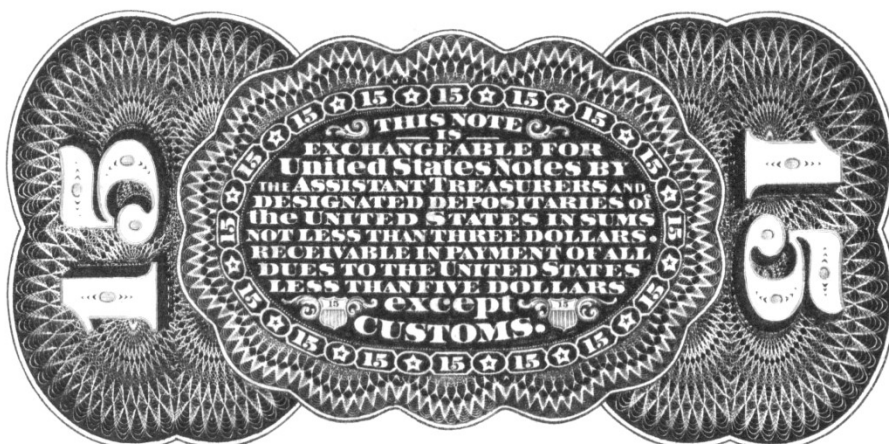
Woodcliff Investment's advertisement in a "Paper Money" magazine from 1971 outlines a "Fractional Currency Book....from the Spinner Estate", which contains 28 notes in a book measuring 8x10-1/2. The presentation books fractional collectors are more familiar with measure 4-3/4 x 6-3/8, or about 1/2 the size of the book being offered.

So...where is this larger book? Was it ever in an auction? Anyone seen it?

Buying & Selling



U.S. Fractional Currency



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314/878-3564
Robert J. Kravitz,
SPMC LM 294 • ANA LM 5361

Postage Currency Used as Postage - New Example to the Census

By

Rick Melamed & John Roos

Following my recent article on "Postage Currency used as Postage" fellow FCCB member, John Roos, has contributed the following example to the census. He indicated that he purchased this item from an online auction. This is an exciting discovery since the population of known letters utilizing postage currency as postage is so limited.



John adds the following information about the Lindsay letter:

It (the letter) was mailed October 17, 1866 in Oneida Castle, NM to R. Lindsay. Lindsay practiced law in Columbia County, WI, from 1858 to 1876. The 1866 date is derived from the annotations at the left border, which makes it the earliest known example of postage currency actually used to mail a letter.

This specimen is interesting since the stamp on the postage note was rather haphazardly cut. The entire stamp was used, but there is at least ½" border surrounding the stamp that proves conclusively it came from a postage note. Had the letter writer trimmed it to the border of the stamp, then it is likely this example would not have come to light.

I have received several emails commenting on this subject. Apparently this has struck a chord with fellow club members. If there are any other examples in collectors' hands, please drop me a line at riconio@yahoo.com. It would be great to share this information with everyone.

